



## Fighting to the End

By Sam Giftos

The Illini Bluffs Girls' Volleyball team outlasted Stark County Monday, October 26th beating them in three games. Stark County took the first game winning 26-24, but IB rallied together and were able to take the next two games winning 25-21 and 25-23. "We got behind in the first game, but we didn't quit and were able to come back and win the next two," said Coach Nancy Meyer. Sydney McClintock had a dominant performance with 22 kills. Behind her was Taylor Isia with 13 and Billi Fox with 8.

The volleyball team then played Tuesday, October 27th against Eureka and lost in two games 25-14 and 25-18. Coach Meyer knew it was going to be a tough game, "I thought we played hard, but they are



The Illini Bluffs High School Girls' Volleyball team receives the normal pep talk before their game from coach Meyer. "Her favorite word to say before the game was "minimize", which meant to minimize our errors. She always told us to talk and just have fun," said senior Brooklyn Taylor.

a good team, and when you play a good team you can't allow mistakes. We just made too many errors against a good team." Unfortunately, their hard work was not enough for the Lady Tigers as their season came to an end on Tuesday. They fought hard all season posting a 15-12-4 record and placing 2nd in the Delevan and Knoxville tournaments. "We had a rough start. "We started off 0-

4, but we were able to dig in and finish strong," said Coach Meyer. The girls fought hard all season and showed true character on and off the court.

Senior player Sydney McClintock said, "I feel like we overcame a lot of adversity and really pulled together when we needed too!"

Illini Bluffs could not be more proud of our girls for their resilient season.

## R.I.P. Cable Companies

By Emily Deppermann

The first television was created in 1925. Since then, it has become a part of our everyday lives. Television not only brought stories to life in our very own living rooms, but also brought large amounts of cash into the pockets of cable providers. However, in recent years, this has started to change.

On-demand internet streaming companies,

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## Why is *The Walking Dead* So Popular?

By Parker Hewitt

Survival, love, violence, and zombies. These are just a few reasons why *The Walking Dead* has become such a major hit in America since its premiere in 2010. The hit TV show is based on graphic novels released in 2003 and

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## Cable Cont.

like Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime, have started to replace previous forms of television. Netflix, the most popular of these companies, currently has 35.6 million customers. Hulu and Amazon Prime are following close behind with 20 million customers each. The cable company Dish Network, on the other hand, currently has roughly 14 million customers. In fact, the number of households paying for cable tv has fallen by 500,000 since 2012.

The increase in the use of online streaming companies could be caused by their affordability. For instance, both Netflix and Hulu cost \$7.99 a month for unlimited use and access to hundred of titles. Alternatively, the cheapest Dish Network package costs \$19.99 a month for 55 channels.

Elsie Croasdale, Illini Bluffs senior, named this

as one of the reasons why her family has transitioned to online streaming when she said, "My family prefers Hulu and Netflix. We don't pay for any cable because it's way less expensive to just get online streaming. Plus, there's no commercials." Many families, like Croasdale's, have canceled their cable subscriptions for the exact same reasons.

Internet streaming companies are not only more cost efficient. They are also more convenient. There is no more waiting until the following week to watch the next episode; viewers now have the option to watch that next episode whenever it is convenient for them. Online streaming also opens up the door to content viewers may have had the opportunity to watch before.

Alex Seng, Illini Bluffs senior, praised this aspect when she

said, "Without Netflix, there's a lot of shows I wouldn't have even known existed. It has also allowed me to watch many shows from years before."

The increase in the use of on-demand online streaming companies should be a major concern for cable companies. The younger generation is growing up with a very strong internet influence on their lives, and it should be no surprise that this is taking over their television use. Not only do they love the convenience of it, but some companies are also making it more easily obtainable to them. Amazon Prime offers students a discount as long as they have a .edu email address.

If cable companies do not begin to make changes or adapt to this online, on-demand media, they might as well begin digging their own graves.

## Are Smart Snacks in Schools Regulations Really That Smart?

By Maggie Look

With national health code changes that started at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, students immediately noticed the differences in their vending machine options. Instead of Hostess Cupcakes, KitKats, and gummy bears, the Illini Bluffs High School's vending machines are now in their second year of being filled with fruit snacks, single Pop Tarts, and "gummy worms that are hard enough to be sticks," according to Lexie Swardenski. Many students are displeased with these changes, and not just because they miss their junk food.

The new vending machine goods are a result of the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations set in 2014, which affected up to thirty-nine states.

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## Walking Dead Cont.

written by Robert Kirkman.

The series follows a group of survivors in a post-apocalyptic world torn apart by zombies, but it also shows the deep emotional impact that living through the horrors of everyday life

would have on people in the apocalypse.

The show has been able to rake in an average of about 14 million viewers per episode, with the season 5 premiere bringing in its largest number of viewers at 17.29 million. The show has continually been one of the most watched shows on television and

has broken multiple records based on viewership. So, how has this post-apocalyptic show become such a pop culture phenomenon?

Well, one reason could be the substantial amount of violence that is present throughout the series. It's no secret that violence draws in audiences and the popularity

of *The Walking Dead* proves that point. The show is very much action-packed and the level of violence is not something that other series typically have, which enthralls audiences.

However, it also has a unique take on characters as well. Unlike many other shows on

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## Smart Snacks Cont.

Many limitations were set with these laws, but notable examples are the 200 calorie limit on snacks, as well as the 230 mg limit of sodium. The United States is not the only country with restrictions on vending machines in schools, but other countries handle it differently. In Austria, they try to base all of the snacks in their vending machines on guidelines set by the Austrian Food Pyramid; these guidelines promote and encourage healthy options rather than forcing them. On the contrary, schools in France don't allow vending machines at all.

While students are the ones most upset about the new regulations, they aren't the only ones affected by them. As more and more kids stray away from the vending machines and their limited options, Pat "The Candyman" loses business. While he gets to decide most of the items that go into the machines, he also has a list of specific guidelines to follow while picking out the snacks. When asked how he picks items that are both healthy and meet the regulations, Pat answered, "I just have to hope that if [the snacks] taste good to me, they'll

taste good to the students. Usually, though, young adults' and students' taste buds are different from older people's." Despite Pat's best efforts to provide the best he can for the student body, he's still lost business as the new guidelines make students less inclined to purchase snacks from the machines.

Watching as the statistics of people who use the Illini Bluffs vending machines dwindle, a question is raised: are these changes really positive? While some students are merely upset at the lack of available junk food, others are angered that they're having their freedom to choose their food taken away from them. There is much contemplation about whether the solution is to get rid of the laws altogether, or perhaps to try out the health standards set by other countries. Either way, most people, students and businesses like Pat's alike, would agree that the Smart Snacks in Schools regulations are not having the desired effect. For now, all the school can do is attempt to provide

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## Walking Cont.

television, the main characters on *The Walking Dead* can be killed off at any time, and many already have been. This is much more realistic than if none of them died. Well, as realistic as the zombie apocalypse can get anyway. Viewers create a personal connection with these characters that they are watching every week and when one of them dies, they feel a real sense of loss. Without that connection, charac-

ter deaths would not be nearly as meaningful.

The plot could be another reason for the increased interest in the show, with its emphasis on the horror of living in a post-apocalyptic world but still weaving in romantic plot lines for the characters. It gives a reason for viewers to emotionally connect with the characters rather than if they were simply one-dimensional, emotionless survivors.

The *Walking Dead* is a television juggernaut that only seems to be

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## Supporting Our Veterans

By Lexie Swardenski

Our community provides heartwarming support for veterans who serve our country. The Illini Bluffs School District has always hosted a parade through town. The school recently changed the parade to an assembly to keep the veterans and students warm and safe in cooler weather conditions. Grades Six through Eight are writing poems to hand out to the veterans as they walk into the gymnasium, where the assembly will be taking place. This assembly starts with everyone standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, then the elementary stu-

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## Veterans Cont.

MIA ceremony. The school also arranges a luncheon for our local veterans and their family members.

It is not only our community that gives care to our veterans; our country gives a helpful hand as well. In the United States, we have the Veterans Support

Foundation (VSF), one of many foundations to help veterans throughout our country. The VSF provides shelter for homeless veterans, offer financial compensation to veterans with disabilities, and gives away grants to better the lives of veterans and their families.

When Sydney McClintock was interviewed,

she referenced that veterans fought hard for our country and will always deserve honorable support within their communities. She shared that her favorite part of the Veterans Day assembly is when they ask for all the veterans to stand up. She also loves when the children sing "Free Like

Me." Sydney cited that although she loves and misses the Veterans Day parade through town, she enjoys the assembly just as much.

Locally and around the country, Americans appreciate and honor their veterans. For all the veterans, thank you tremendously for serving our country.

## Jett's Declassified High School Survival Guide

By Jeston Rademaker

High school students face many challenges today, from grades to peer pressure. Here, I've listed the three best tips I, a high school senior, can give you.

### 1. Be yourself.

In high school you're transitioning from a child to an adult. This means you must be able

to make your own decisions. This means you do things you enjoy. If you don't enjoy a sport, don't do it. You shouldn't force yourself to do an activity just because your friends do it or your parents want you to do it.

### 2. Try New Things.

High school is a time to branch out and try new things. You may not have found your passion yet, and there's no better time to explore than high school. Try theater,

baseball, softball, or scholastic bowl. Try it all! You may find that being in front of people is exhilarating, or that you love science. The only way to know is to try!

### 3. Be Friendly.

High school can give you some of your life long friends! Life's too short to not be kind to others. Upperclassman be kind to the underclassman and vice versa. Make friends with your teachers, they usually

became teachers to help students! Have fun with them as you have four years together. You may be comfortable to have them look over a paper or check your homework. Always be appreciative to a person who takes time out of their day to help you!

These days it seems high school is just a four year audition for college, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy it! Take some time to have fun as it only lasts a few years. Good luck!

## Walking Dead Cont.

increasing its popularity through its immense amount of violence, unique character development, heart-racing action, fascinating plot lines, and of course the blood-thirsty zombies.

## Smart Snacks Cont.

snacks that are both healthy and enjoyable.

## Call for A Military Speaker

By Mandy Seybold

As many people already know Veteran's Day is this Wednesday, and teachers will be in-

cluding lessons about with people serving in the military today and veterans.

It is very important for students today to realize what an impact our military has on us today and what it meant to us in the past, so they know how we are free and that freedom comes with a price.

For this reason Mr. Armstrong, 7th and 8th graded history teacher, would like a veteran or someone who is currently in the military to speak in his class during any day. He wants his students to hear first-hand accounts of what being a part of the military is like, and he feels that his students will benefit greatly from this!